

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Lincoln National Forest
1101 New York Avenue
Alamogordo, NM 88310



Contact: Julian Affuso – (505) 257-4095
Joe Garcia – (505) 434-7200

LUCAS PRESCRIBED BURN PROJECT ON SMOKEY BEAR RANGER DISTRICT

Alamogordo, NM (September 26, 2006) – The Lincoln National Forest Fire management officials of the Smokey Bear Ranger District will conduct a prescribed burn beginning Wednesday, September 27, 2006.

The Lucas prescribed burn is a continuation of burns initiated in July of this year but were postponed due to increased monsoon moisture. The location of the burn will be behind Sierra Contracting and at the end of Stetson Road and east to the shooting range on Hale Lake Road. Future burns will also take place at the Hale Lake area, off Ski Run Road and in the Capitan area.

The units consist of bulldozed push piles within pinon/juniper woodland stands. The purpose of the burn is to reduce hazardous fuel loadings within the area with the additional benefit of creating openings for wildlife and range forage enhancement.

The burn will be conducted by District personnel who will follow strict guidelines for burning conditions, generation of smoke and consideration for personnel and public safety. Smoke will likely be visible from many places in Lincoln County. As with all prescribed fire, weather and environmental conditions will play a key role in the timing and accomplishment of these projects.

The Smokey Bear Ranger District plans to conduct a number of prescribed burns throughout the District during the fall and winter months. The public will be notified in advance as to when and where the burns are to take place prior to the actual burning.

For additional information, concerns or questions, please contact the Smokey Bear Ranger District Office at (505) 257-4095, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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